

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of certain of the claims as unpatentable over SICARD et al. in view of MANICKE et al.

MANICKE et al. has a U.S. filing date, and hence a reference date, of February 6, 2001.

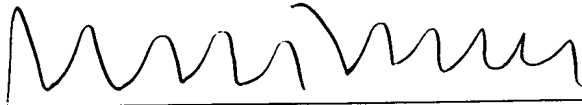
By contrast, the present application is entitled to a European priority dated December 8, 2000. Entitlement to the European filing date has been perfected by the filing herewith of a verified translation of the European application.

There thus being no rejection for any of the claims, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☐ - a terminal disclaimer
- ☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- ☐ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☐ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure of the drawings
- ☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the
originally-filed specification
- ☒ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document